

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claim 9 directed to the non-elected species that was elected without traverse. Accordingly, claim 9 has been cancelled.
2. Claims 1 and 17 are directed to an allowable product. Pursuant to the procedures set forth in MPEP § 821.04(b), claim 11 is, directed to the process of making or using the allowable product, previously withdrawn from consideration as a result of a restriction requirement, is hereby rejoined and fully examined for patentability under 37 CFR 1.104. Claim 9 is, directed to the invention(s) of directions of “the transmission easy axes of the pair of polarizers are approximately orthogonal to each other (cf. figures 4-5, claim 9)” require all the limitations of an allowable product claim, and has NOT been rejoined.

Because a claimed invention previously withdrawn from consideration under 37 CFR 1.142 has been rejoined, **the restriction requirements among groups A1-A3 and inventions I-II as set forth in the Office actions mailed on 03/08/2007 and 06/18/2008 are hereby withdrawn**. In view of the withdrawal of the restriction requirement as to the rejoined inventions, applicant(s) are advised that if any claim presented in a continuation or divisional application is anticipated by, or includes all the limitations of, a claim that is allowable in the present application, such claim may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Once the restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. See *In re Ziegler*, 443 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

Reasons for Allowance

3. **Claims 1, 3-7, 10-20** are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
5. The prior art of record neither disclose nor make obvious a parallax barrier device comprising a combination of various elements as claimed in **claims 1 and 17**.
6. **Knight / Sakata** fails to disclose or suggest a parallax barrier device as claimed including "*a liquid crystal layer is formed in the barrier light-shielding part, a resin layer having the property of transmitting light and not serving as a liquid crystal is formed in the light transmitting part, and the barrier light-shielding part is configured to change a polarization state of light entering the liquid crystal layer according to a distribution state of liquid crystal molecules so that a polarization state of light which has passed through the liquid crystal layer differs from a polarization state of light which has passed through the resin layer having the property of transmitting light.*"
7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lauren Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 270-1428. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 7:30-5:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Nelms can be reached on (571) 272-1787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/L. N./
Examiner, Art Unit 2871

/David Nelms/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2871